

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 154315
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:PDW
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
S/S:JETHYDEN

-----033972 020159Z /65

O R 020005Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
CINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 154315

EXDIS, CINCEUR HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE, PASS POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS, SY

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON--KAMEL AL-ASSAD REQUESTS ISRAELI
GUARANTEES

REF: BEIRUT 3110

1. AS YOU WILL HAVE NOTED FROM STATE 152945, WE BELIEVE
WE SHOULD SECURE ISRAELI COOPERATION IN ANY CEASEFIRE AND
WITHDRAWAL ARRANGEMENT THAT CAN BE NEGOTIATED IN LEBANON,
BUT PREFERABLY ONE THAT IS NEGOTIATED BY THE CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT MENTIONING TO THE
ISRAELIS THAT AL-ASSAD IS TRYING TO NEGOTIATE A PALESTINIAN
WITHDRAWAL TO THE ARQUB. FOR ONE REASON, ISRAELIS MIGHT

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ACCUSE US OF SUPPORTING, AT LEAST TACITLY, THAT PART OF
THE CAIRO ACCORDS WHICH GIVES THE PALESTINIANS THE RIGHT
TO MAINTAIN AN ARMED PRESENCE IN THE ARQUB. SECONDLY,
THE ISRAELIS MIGHT FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A SUBSTAN-
TIAL PROPORTION OF THE PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN WOULD EVER
MOVE OUT OF SOUTH LEBANON INTO THAT AREA, WHERE THEY WOULD
BE RELATIVELY MORE EXPOSED IN A THINLY-POPULATED AREA TO

ISRAELI AIR ATTACK AS IN THE PRE-1972 PERIOD. THIRD, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE PRECISE PLAN BEFORE MENTIONING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ARQUB ARRANGEMENT TO THE ISRAELIS. IS AL-ASSAD THINKING SIMPLY OF A

WITHDRAWAL OF LIMITED NUMBERS OF FEDAYEEN FROM THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES, OR IS HE THINKING IN TERMS OF WITHDRAWAL FROM A BROADER AREA IN THE SOUTH? WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS.

2. IN THE MEANTIME, WE BELIEVE YOU ARE SAYING THE RIGHT THINGS TO LEBANESE. BASED ON PREVIOUS ISRAELI ASSURANCES, WE BELIEVE THE ISRAELIS WILL NOT REPEAT NOT MOVE INTO SOUTH LEBANON, WE HOPE THAT AMBASSADOR LEWIS WILL SHORTLY SOLICIT SOME HELPFUL COMMENTS FROM THE ISRAELIS WHICH YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY BACK TO THE LEBANESE; CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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